Estimates of the proportion and the number of poor are based on (i) Poverty line and (ii) distribution of households according to expenditure classes. The poverty line refers to a minimum level of living expressed as a certain level of per capita expenditure. The Task Force on "Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" (1979) defined the poverty line as a per capita monthly consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices. The poverty line so defined is updated for price changes over time using the price rise as reflected in the private consumption deflator in the National Accounts Statistics. To arrive at the estimates of the poor, the poverty line is used to segregate poor from the non-poor using the data on household consumption expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their comprehensive sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted generally at quinquennial intervals. The last such survey for which such results are available relates to 1987-88. Estimates of incidence of poverty for later years comparable to those made on the basis of the 1987-88 survey are not available.

Exporters' Grievance Redressal Cell

1958. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Exporters' Grievance Redressal Cell (ERC) to monitor specific complaints from exporters for quick redressal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many complaints have so far been received and disposed off by the ERC; and

(d) what sort of complaints are received by ERC and how much time is generally taken in their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Exporters' Grievances Redressal Cell (ERC) has been formed to entertain and monitor disposal of suggestions and difficulties of exporters and to facilitate early action on such issues.

(c) During the period July 1993 to 31.7.1995, 835 cases were received in the ERC, out of which 748 have been disposed of.

(d) Specific grievances as well as suggestions on policy issues concerning exporters are received. No such time frame can be indicated for policy issues while specific grievances are endeavoured to be disposed of within four weeks.

Gems and Jewellery Exports from NEPZ

1959. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of gems and jewellary from the Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) has increased during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure increasing trend of export of these items during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of gems & jewellery from the Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) during last two years is given below:

Year	Export	%Growth
	(Rs. in crores)	
1993-94	64.02	
1994-95	123.31	92.50

(c) and (d) Gems & Jewellery constitute a thrust area of our exports. The Government has taken various steps to boost exports from this sectors. The steps include fine tuning of policies, ensuring easy availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices, encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibitions, etc.

Surplus Employees in Super Bazar

1960. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surplus employees working in the Super Bazar as on date, branch-wise;

(b) the quantum of amount being paid to these surplus employees monthly, alongwith the annual financial burden on the Super Bazar on account of these employees;

(c) what is the reaction of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the details of employees who were surplus as on the 31st March, 1994, class-wise;

(d) what directions have been issued to the Super Bazar by Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) It has been reported by Super Bazar that as on date there is no surplus employees.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that they have not received any observations from the Comptroller and Auditor General with regard to surplus employees.

(d) and (e) Super Bazar is an autonomous co-operative society with its own management. Govt. of India have only a supervisory role. The management of Super Bazar has put a ban on new recruitment from March 1988 except on filling up of posts of technical nature.

Increase in Export of Agricultural Products

1961. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of agricultural products during the last three years;

(b) how far these have helped to raise agriculture exports during the last two years;

(c) whether there has been any change in the composition as well as direction so far as agriculture exports are concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The total value of exports of agricultural and allied products excluding coffee, tea, raw cotton and marine products during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1992-93	5686.80
1993-94	7532.98
1994-95	7049.04

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The steps taken to enhance exports of agricultural products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

(c) and (d) The major agricultural products exported are Basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew, oilmeals and fruits and vegetables. These are minaly exported to the USA, Canada, Germany, the UK, Russia, the Middle East countries, Japan, North Africa, Indonesia, and Singapore.

There has been enhanced exports of non-traditional items such as floricultural products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and meat & meat preparations to new destinations in Middle East countries, Western Europe and Japan.

Meeting of Board of Directors of Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

1962. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Indo-US Commercial alliance was held for the first time in June, 1995 at Santa Clara;

(b) whether the issue of Enron Project (Dabhol Power Project) came up for discussion there;